

has been fully and fairly discussed. Several churches in the old country, and in this, have made the change to the evident satisfaction of the parties concerned. Ecclesiastical bodies in the United States have taken action upon the subject with good effect; besides, there is no small danger arising from the fact and its associations, that what we condemn elsewhere we sanction here, what is unfit for our own tables, is fit for the table of the Lord.

If I am not greatly mistaken, the members of Total Abstinence Societies in this Province, are prepared to adopt the following resolution, or one of a similar import, and I hope, from the additional light which will be thrown upon the subject, by your answer, herein requested, no hesitation will be allowed to prevent the introduction of it, and its unanimous adoption:—

Resolved.—That as a considerable and increasing number of individuals believe, that it is both unscriptural and inexpedient to use alcoholic wine in the administration of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, we humbly, but decidedly, give our opinion in favour of a change, and will do all in our power to have such change effected, as will banish for ever from the communion table an unfit emblem of that blood divine, most precious and powerfully efficacious to the salvation of all who believe.

VERITAS.

[The esteemed friend, who sends us the above article, is a devoted and zealous Christian, and this character is a guarantee for his approaching any subject, connected with religion, in a becoming manner. We have long felt, that in shutting out this important subject from the columns of the *Advocate* we have been somewhat wanting in our duty to the Temperance public, and we see no objection to the insertion, from time to time, of argumentative and temperately written articles bearing upon either side of the question.]

We insert the following communication of the esteemed Secretary of the Toronto Society with much pleasure, and hope it will call the attention of the Temperance public to the importance of circulating Temperance publications.

Toronto, Oct. 20, 1843.

SIR,—I am sorry to think the *Advocate* is so slightly encouraged. It deserves better at the hands of the Temperance public, and I do think, if every Secretary in our ranks were to determine he would try to obtain ten new subscribers, and were to use all proper means to that end, he would succeed; and a movement of this kind would not favourably effect your Subscription List, merely, but many minds would be set in motion, and led to weigh well the whole question as to whether intoxicating beverages should continue to be used, or be laid aside, never again to be resumed. In many cases, the result of such an investigation would undoubtedly be a decision in favour of total abstinence. Should any doubt this, let them try the experiment. I was much pleased the other day to hear of an instance in which an individual was reclaimed from habits of intemperance, through the reading of the *Advocate*. It appears the paper is periodically left at his house, by a tract distributor, and received again when read; and this course had been pursued for some time, without any thing coming to the knowledge of the distributor as to the good it was silently producing; and the fact was only agreeably communicated a short time ago, by the person calling at the house of the distributor, and leaving a present of several shillings' value, as a small expression of his gratitude for the benefits he has received by being induced to adopt the practise of total abstinence from all intoxicating drinks. Is this a solitary case of recovery, or is it only one of a thousand? Let the friends of temperance "sow the seed beside all waters," and the results will assuredly be happy, whether they hear of them or not.

ALEXANDER CHRISTIE.

Government intends to impose a duty, per gallon, upon distilled and fermented liquors manufactured in Canada, and the

distillers and brewers of Montreal and Quebec have held a meeting, and appointed a deputation to proceed to Kingston to oppose the measure. Any law which will have the effect of diminishing the consumption of intoxicating drinks, must be so far good; but if, as is to be feared in this case, it sanctions and legalizes the traffic upon certain conditions, consistent tea-totalists can have nothing to do with it.

The address of the Toronto Society to the Governor General in our next.

EDUCATION.

Habits of Reading.

Character is formed more as the result of habits of daily reading than we are accustomed to think. Scarcely less depends on these than on the character of the books read. One man will glance over a dozen books, gaining some general conception of their contents, but without mastering a single thought and making it his own; while another in the perusal of a single work will gather materials of thought and conversation for a lifetime.—Grimké, of South Carolina, an eminent scholar and orator, attributed his distinction to the influence of the thorough reading and study of a single book—Butler's Analogy: while thousands, if they would confess the truth, might ascribe their mental dissipation and imbecility to the indiscriminate and cursory reading of what ever comes in their way.

There is an evil in this direction that lies at the back of the character of the popular literature, and that could not but work immense mischief even if what is so universally read were a great deal better than it is. We allude to the habit of reading for amusement or excitement. There are multitudes who have no other or higher object in reading. If the book is only "interesting" it suffices. No matter whether it contains a single valuable thought, fact or principle: no matter if it is true or false. It is enough that a morbid love of what is wonderful or amusing is gratified. It helps to "kill time," and satisfies an appetite that is as craving and about as healthful as that of the drunkard for his cups.

It is truly melancholy to see so many minds employed in catering for the risibles and lachrymals of weak men and silly women, who spend the best part of a lifetime in an imaginary world, living in "castles in the air" and feeding on husks of sentimentality.—If there were no duties to be performed in this matter of fact world; and if men had not immortal souls; and if there were no day of final account, it might be well enough, perhaps, to yield one's self to the control of fancy, and surrender the mind to become the plaything of every literary harlequin who chooses to amuse and delight us: but we have duties and we have souls, and there will be a judgment-day, and we protest solemnly against the prevalent neglect of all these, in the habit of simply reading for amusement. We object,

1. Because it is a wanton and wicked waste of time.
2. Because it enervates and dissipates the mind.
3. Because it unfits the mind for solid and instructive reading.
4. Because it engenders such a false taste, that even the Bible, and serious books, and the preached Gospel become powerless, or are only valued in the degree that they excite or amuse.
5. Because eternity is a sober world; and the mind that has given itself up to amusement in this life, will find itself poorly prepared for the realities of another. It will be a sad meeting when the writers and readers of amusing fiction stand before the Judge!—*American Messenger*.

Truth.

(Continued from page 186.)

Exaggeration is so common and tempting a departure from truth, and if long indulged in, lead so far from it, that you cannot guard too carefully against this error. It seems to begin in a very harmless way, when a little girl says, "Oh, mother, uncle has bushels and bushels of strawberries in his garden!" when he has two moderate sized beds in full bearing—or, "Oh, mother, the clouds are as black as ink!" when they are only darkish—or, "Mary is the crossiest, awfulest girl in the world!" when Mary has been seen but two or three times out of the humor—or, "Mother, Anne and I were coming through Mr. Peters' orchard, and we picked up two or three apples; and Mr. Peters came